



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

FEB 25 2002

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, D. C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Deputy Secretary asked me to provide the Department's response to your letter of January 28, 2002, regarding the status of the revision to the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook, ERDA 76-21.

The Department recognizes the value of the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook for contractors who manage its defense nuclear facilities. In light of the importance of the revision, the Department has taken actions to ensure that the revision will be a worthy successor to the second edition, ERDA 76-21. These actions include engaging writers with demonstrated knowledge and experience for the sections they are writing.

We appreciate input from the Board and are addressing the subjects mentioned in your letter. As an example, the chapter on fire protection includes discussion of the aerosol generators and the fire potential resulting from using aerosol agents with lower flash points than the generator manufacturer intended. Once the draft chapters have been reviewed by the technical reviewers and editors, we will be happy to share the resulting draft document with you and your staff.

Further, we would like to brief you and your staff regarding the status to the Handbook project. We have arranged a briefing with your staff on February 28, 2002, and will be available to provide the Board members with a briefing.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-7349 or have your staff contact Mr. Richard Crowe at (301) 903-6214.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Erickson
Acting Associate Administrator
for Facilities and Operations

cc:

M. Whitaker, S 3.1
F. Blake, S-2



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